

The regular meeting of the North Town Council was held on Monday, August 9, 2004 at 7:30 PM at the temporary Town Hall. Mayor Jeffcoat, all Council members, and Administrator Ott were present. The Mayor declared a quorum and called the meeting to Order. He welcomed the visitors present.

Council approved minutes of the last regular session meeting, and the called meeting for discussion of renovations to Town Hall unanimously.

During the Water & Sewer report, it was noted that cut offs were down some. The men were busy with leaks and sewer line repairs. They also had requests to check a number of meter readings. They assisted in completion of the move from 9305 North Road to 618 Main for renovations. There were no violations in water or sewer for the month.

Ms. Cook advised that the Fire Department computer had crashed during a storm, and no records were available for a report at this time. Chief Gambrell has promised one in the near future.

Chief Fallaw gave the Police Department report. They were busy with 65 offenses, 32 traffic summons, and 21 arrests. He is currently reviewing cover letters and resumes for filling the 3rd officer position.

July's financial and expense reports were reviewed and accepted unanimously by Council.

Mr. Ott gave an update on the renovation process. Preferred Construction was awarded the bid. The work is scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2005. Council approved adding an A-frame style roof while construction is underway, which will complement the building's appearance. The only changes this will have will be the HVAC system, and the engineers and architects are aware of this. We are looking at several different funding options for the portion of the costs not covered by the 1 cent sales tax.

2nd reading was given to the 2004-2005 budget. For the record, 1st reading was held on July 12, 2004, Public hearing on August 9, 2004 and 2nd reading on August 9, 2004. Council had no discussion during regular session since the Public Hearing was held prior to the regular meeting. All questions were answered then. A motion to approve the budget as drafted as made by Mr. Gleaton, 2nd by Mr. Drew, and passed unanimously by Council.

Last month, Council passed a 30-day tent revival policy. Mr. Ott presented a more detailed policy for Council's review tonight. He has listed:

- 1) \$30.00 deposit (refundable if grounds are in good order when revival leaves)
- 2) A 5 night limit
- 3) Once a year per revival
- 4) One revival per month
- 5) Noise must cease by 10:30 PM
- 6) Sign a waiver releasing Town of any liability

Council discussed the matter. Several citizens asked that Council think about 7 nights rather than 5. A motion to accept the policy as presented by Mr. Ott was made by Ms. Cook, 2nd by Mrs. Lane, and passed unanimously by Council.

1st reading was given to a new Telecommunications Tax Collection Ordinance provided by MASC. This is required because they collect these taxes for the municipalities. A Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 PM prior to next month's meeting for comment or questions regarding this. A motion to accept 1st reading was made by Mrs. Lane, 2nd by Mr. Gleaton, and passed unanimously by Council.

Mayor Jeffcoat advised Council of some serious sewer line problems we incurred this past week. The 10" main sewer line that runs directly to the wastewater treatment plant was blocked. The Town was unable to fix the problem with the equipment we have so Pascon Construction Company out of Columbia was called in to fix the problem. Pascon was able to fix the problem and clean the lines, which was desperately needed. Unfortunately, this work was very expensive and could cost upwards of \$8,000.00. Mr. Ott stated that Council needed to decide where the money to pay for this project would be taken from. Mr. Ott recommended that the bill be paid out of the Local Government Investment Pool that is earmarked for water and wastewater improvements.

After mentioning that the money should be replaced as soon as possible, Mr. Gleaton made a motion to pay the Pascon bill from the investment fund, seconded by Mrs. Lane, and unanimously passed by Council.

The Community of Character trait for the month of August is Initiative. Mr. Jeffcoat reported that there was no meeting for the trait last month.

During the Mayors' report, Mr. Jeffcoat reported that the Town auction took in \$1,278.00, which would go towards the furnishing of the renovated Town Hall.

During public comment, a request was made to extend the tent revival policy to allow for seven days rather than five. After a brief discussion, council stated that they would consider the request but that no change would be currently made.

Also, several citizens were present to voice concerns and complaints about a police license checkpoint on July 30, 2004. The checkpoint was in close proximity to St. Dorcas church, which, at the time was holding a revival. Many of those present were upset that a checkpoint would be administered while a revival was letting out. Council advised everyone present that the situation would be looked into and handled accordingly.

A motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues was made by Ms. Cook, seconded by Mrs. Lane, and approved unanimously by council.

After a brief executive session, a motion to return was made by Mrs. Lane, seconded by Ms. Cook, and approved unanimously by Council.

Ms. Cook stated that a new maintenance supervisor needed to be hired and that Council must decide upon a starting hourly wage for the new employee. Ms. Cook then made a motion to set a maximum hourly rate of \$11.30 for the candidate hired for the position. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Lane and passed unanimously by Council.

After a brief discussion about the length of the tent revival, of which no action was taken, Mr. Drew made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Lane, and approved unanimously by Council.

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl H. Townsend
Town Clerk
